

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, business
agendas can
profoundly influence
the course of
political process.
It is important that
we see real people
from our own
communities and more
substantive news.

It is certainly a
media corporation's
right to bring
political slant to
their news content.
However, this
broadcast crosses
the line from news
to propaganda. This
unabashed, partisan
use of the airwaves,
outside of the realm
of campaign law, is
an ominous example
of corporate
totalitarianism that
could threaten the
very foundations of
our democracy.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
should involve more
than a cursory
administrative
given. Undoubtedly,
this abuse of media
privilege will be
reviewed at the
congressional level.

In the meantime, I
urge the FCC to
examine this matter
and intervene. The
integrity of our
american way of life
is indeed at risk in
this matter.

Thank you.